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NEW ZEALAND
PATENTS ACT 1953
COMPLETE SPECIFICATION

Title of Invention:

Fish oil/mussel extract combination

Name, address and nationality of
applicant(s) as in international
application form:

McFARLANE LABORATORIES NEW ZEALAND LIMITED, a New Zealand company
of 117 Lansford Crescent, Avondale, Auckland 7, New Zealand

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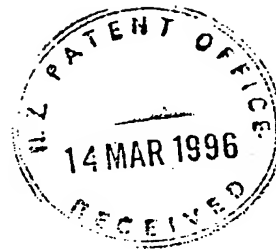
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Date: 20 March 1995



COMPLETE SPECIFICATION

FISH OIL/MUSSEL EXTRACT COMBINATION

We, McFARLANE LABORATORIES NEW ZEALAND LIMITED, a New Zealand company, of 117 Lansford Crescent, Avondale, Auckland 7, New Zealand, hereby declare the invention for which we pray that a patent may be granted to us and the method by which it is to be performed, to be particularly described in and by the following statement:-

This invention relates to a fish oil/mussel extract combination.

An extract from the New Zealand green-lipped mussel (*Perna canaliculus*) is known to have beneficial anti-inflammatory effects making it useful in the treatment of arthritis in particular.

Fish oils such as cod liver oil and shark liver oil are known to have similar beneficial effects.

Fish oils in general are cheaper to produce than the mussel extract. It was therefore thought that it could be desirable to mix the two products. To do this it is necessary to very finely grind the freeze-dried mussel extract so that a stable suspension of it may be prepared with uniform distribution of mussel extract within the fish oil. Encapsulation in gelatine capsules necessitates the use of a semi-solid matrix encapsulating process.

It has been found that the combination of mussel extract with a fish oil, particularly with cod liver oil or shark liver oil, has a synergistic effect where the degree of anti-inflammatory relief exceeds that which would be expected from the use of the relative concentrations of either ingredient alone.

The present invention therefore consists in a mixture of finely ground freeze-dried extract from the New Zealand green-lipped mussel (*Perna canaliculus*) suspended in a fish oil in a manner yielding a substantially uniform particle distribution.

The present invention also consists in an encapsulated product containing the above substance.

WHAT WE CLAIM IS:

1. A mixture of finely ground freeze-dried extract from the New Zealand green-lipped mussel (*Perna canaliculus*) suspended in a fish oil in a manner yielding a substantially uniform particle distribution.
2. A mixture as claimed in claim 1 wherein the said fish oil is shark liver oil.
3. A mixture as claimed in claim 1 wherein the said fish oil is cod liver oil.
4. An encapsulated product containing the mixture as claimed in any of claims 1, 2 or 3.
5. A fish oil/mussel extract combination substantially as herein described.

McFARLANE LABORATORIES
NEW ZEALAND LIMITED
by their authorised agents
J.D. HARDIE & CO.
per: *AK Browne*

END OF CLAIMS

